(c) whether any countries have shown interest in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The possibility of securing the support of NRIs in the Gulf region for the bonds being raised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation for the Konkan Railway project has been explored.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Meetings with representative group of NRIs were held and the response from the NRIs was encouraging.

Rail link to Sikkim

1407. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the North-East Frontier Railway General Manager, which appeared in the Economic Times of the 20th June, 1992 to the effect that rail link to Sikkim is feasible; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to expedite action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Railway line in difficult train would require huge investments. In view of acute constraint of resources, it is not possible to consider taking up this line at present.

गुजरात में नई रेल लाइनों का बिछाया जाना

1408. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य में नई लाइनें बिछाये जाने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ; और

(ग) राज्य में बिछाई जा रही नई रेल लाइनों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी हां ;

(ख) और (ग) गुजरात सरकार ने निम्नलिखित नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण की मांग की है :—

(i) कपड़वंज मोडासा

(ii) गोधरा-दाहोद-इन्दौर

(iii) वडोदरा-इन्दौर (बरास्ता छोटा उदयपुर)

(iv) भावनगर-तारापुर

रेल बजट में निम्नलिखित नई लाइनें शामिल की गई है :—

(i) कपड़वंज-मोडासा (60.50 कि० मी०)

(ii) गोधरा-इन्दौर बरास्ता दाहोद, सरदारपुर, देवास और भकसी के बीच धार (316 कि० मी०— जिसमें से 81 कि० मी० गुजरात में है)।

Removal of fish plates from Railway Tracks

1409. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 25th June, 1992 under the caption "Rly track fish plates found removed";